

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01195 170858Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SCEM-02 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

PM-07 DRC-01 INT-08 /173 W

----- 110849

P 170800Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0545

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG LY

SUBJ: LIBYAN PRESS COVERAGE OF OIL NATIONALIZATIONS

1. AS OF THIS WRITING THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL PRESS
REACTION SPECIFICALLY TIED TO NOTE WHICH EMBASSY SENT TO MFA
ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 14. NOTE ITSELF NOT MENTIONED.

2. LIBYAN PRESS OF WEEKEND HEADLINED "NO, AMERICA" AND
THIS WAS INDICATIVE OF THEME OF COVERAGE. PAPERS CARRIED
HARD-HITTING ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS WARNING THE US TO AVOID
ANY ECONOMIC OR MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH LIBYA. IT ALL
BASED ON LIBYAN ASSUMPTION (AND PERHAPS GOVERNMENT BELIEF)
THAT US WILL TRY TO ARRANGE "BOYCOTT" OF LIBYAN OIL OR EVEN
TAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA.

3. WHAT APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING IS THAT LIBYAN PRESS
IS REACTING TO AMERICAN PRESS DISCUSSION OF THE BOYCOTT
IDEA, AND PLAYING IT FOR PRESTIGE REASONS. WE HAVE SOME
INDICATIONS POPULAR LIBYAN CONCERN OVER PACE OF TAKE-OVERS.
DEPT WILL RECALL FROM PAST REPORTING THAT MANY LIBYANS HAVE BEEN

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RATHER TOLERANT OF QADHAFI ON THE GROUND THAT "HE MEANS

WELL THOUGH OF COURSE INEXPERIENCE CAUSES HIM TO MAKE

SOME MISTAKES". THESE PEOPLE NOW ARE PROBABLY WORRIED THAT QADHAFI HAS MOVED TOO FAR TOO FAST. IT SEEMS TO US THAT BY OVERPLAYING OF BOYCOTT THEME AND ALLEGING THAT U.S. PLANS MILITARY ACTION, THE REGIME HAS DELIBERATELY CAST THE CURRENT OIL IMPASSE INTO QUESTION OF SURVIVAL, AND THUS HOPES TO DISCREDIT ANY WEAK-KNEED CRITICS OF CURRENT ACTIONS AGAINST THE MAJORS.

JOSIF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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To: STATE
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